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Clinton postpones council meeting

Daniel Richardson

The Clinton City Council was unable to hold a meeting Monday night due to lack of a quorum, with only three of the six members there. At least four of the council members must be present in order to constitute a quorum and conduct a meeting.

Councilmembers Howard Dillard, Ivan Potter, and Betty Morrow were present at the meeting. City Clerk Donna Bryan said that she has been with the city since 1999, and this is the first time she have ever seen a meeting not be held due to lack of a quorum.

The much-anticipated discussion of the city's annexation of surrounding areas was held off until a special called meeting, which will be held next Monday at 5 p.m. at City Hall.

Brad Davis, associate director of community and economic development of PADD, was present at the meeting to discuss a community development block grant (CDBG). Mayor Phyllis Campbell said that since there was no quorum, no action could be taken, but those present could hear his presentation.

Davis explained that the company that is in the process of buying Clinton Apartments and Clinton Hills Apartments is interested in doing some renovations to the property. He said that funds are available through a CDBG to help with the project, but that a city or county government had to apply for the grant and administer it.

He said that the main purpose of the funds is to renovate the properties, and bring the properties into ADA compliance, and build an ADA

SEE **CLINTON,** PAGE 2



LAST OF STOCK - This photo, taken Monday at the gift shop in the Civil War Museum at Columbus-Belmont State Park, shows items such as coffee mugs and shot glasses that display the Confederate Battle Flag. These items, along with the Confederate flags themselves, will not be reordered when this stock is gone, unless the Department of Parks allows it in a new policy.

State parks may stop selling Confederate Flags

Columbus-Belmont State Park ordered not to re-order after current stock is sold

Daniel Richardson

The Kentucky Department of Parks is trying to decide whether or not gift shops at Civil War sites such as Columbus-Belmont State Park should sell Confederate Flags and memorabilia bearing the image of the "Stars and Bars," according to a statement from media correspondent Gil Lawson on Monday.

"In light of the events coming out of Charleston, we decided to review our policy on Confederate Flag sales at state parks," Lawson said over the phone. The events in reference including the June 18 shooting at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. Dylann Roof, who admitted to the shooting, had posted photos on social media with the Confederate Battle Flag, or "Stars and Bars." Since the event, groups have pushed for the removal of the flag from the capitol in Charleston, and other organizations across the country have made moves to decrease visibility of the flag, including TV Land pulling reruns of "Dukes of Hazard."



The Confederate Battle Flag, in left portion of box, may no longer be sold at Columbus-Belmont State Park after current stock is gone. The Confederate National Flag, right, will still be sold.

Lawson said that there is a small inventory of Confederate Flag memorabilia at Columbus-Belmont State Park, and that once that merchandise is sold, no more will be ordered until an official policy regarding the merchandise is adopted by the department.

According to Lawson, only three state parks in Kentucky currently sell Confederate flags and memorabilia, including Columbus-Belmont State Park, Jefferson Davis Historic Site in Pambroke, and Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site in Perryville. He said it is not known whether Kentucky State Parks will discontinue sale of

SEE **FLAGS** PAGE 2

Columbus moving forward with CDBG grant, other projects

Cherry Pyron

The Columbus City Council approved councilmember Amanda Nichy's request to begin plans for the second annual Halloween maze and kids' celebration at their regular meeting on Monday night.

"I need to get on it," Nichy, the initiator of last year's successful first-time project, said, "if we're planning to continue so that we're not working at the last minute like last year."

Nichy reported that the city had no expenses for the 2014 event and "that we actually made a little money." She also said several people have already volunteered to help with this year's event.

Supplies left from last year can be used to construct the maze, and donations of money and candy prizes will again be solicited from interested people and businesses.

An event closer in date discussed at the meeting is a possible repeat of the first annual children's pageant held last year during the city's traditional 8th of August celebration. "We need to be in touch with the (homecoming) committee," councilmember Kim Ferguson said, "so that we're not causing conflict.

"I don't want to step on the committee's toes or interfere with anyone," she said. "If we can find a good time with the committee's plans, let's do it."

Consensus of the group was to contact homecoming committee leaders about whether to hold the pageant again on the Columbus Park activity building terrace or move it to City Hall. Councilmember Vanessa Lightner is a member of the committee but was unable to attend the planning meeting last week.

City clerk Melissa Griffith was asked to contact committee leaders about the council's wish to have the pageant and to coordinate time and location with the homecoming activities. Nichy will prepare posters and registration forms if the committee wishes for the pageant to be held during that weekend.

CDBG grant administrator Martha Campbell brought two documents required for grant documentation for action by the council, one checklist to insure that the city hall is handicap accessible for applicants and a statement of assurance that the grant application and administration is non-discriminating by race, gender, disability or income.

Campbell told the council and several people in attendance who have been approved for the project that no work can be done and no money drawn until Department of Local Government officials from Frankfort come to Columbus to sign the grant agreement. "Usually as the administrator I would go to sign (the agreement)," she said, "but since Columbus and Arlington (which is also receiving a grant) are newer communities to the grants, they want to come into the area."

Thirteen units were approved to be funded by the grant, 10 structures to be built new which were deemed beyond repair, with the others eligible for rehabilitation. Four of the original 18 applicants are on a stand-by list that could move up on the build list, if additional units were needed, with approval from DOG.

Clerk Griffith presented Canty's Heat & Air's bid to replace the exhausted 23-year-old HVAC unit at city hall. The council asked Griffith to get a second bid for a new system as well as to investigate replacing the unit with one or two PTAC units, self-contained heating and cooling heat pumps, as an alternative. Estimate for wiring the building for a 220-service will also be required to power such units.

Councilmember Sue Jones was approved by the council as the third-party signer of the city's checks, joining Griffith and Mayor Kay Ferguson on the Clinton Bank checking account.

Next regular meeting of the council will be August 3 at 6 p.m.

Locals gather in prayer after same-sex marriage ruling, second event scheduled for July 18

Daniel Richardson

Approximately 100 local residents gathered at the Hickman County Courthouse on Saturday, July 4, to pray for the future of the country in light of the Friday, June 26, 5-4 Supreme Court decision to force all states to recognize same-sex marriage.

"We, as churches, are concerned about this new law and what it means," said Kevin Keeling, who organized the event. Keeling, who serves as pastor at New Bethel Baptist Church in Fulgham, said that he felt that God laid it on his heart last Thursday to assemble with other Christians in prayer.

"Different churches have differing beliefs in some areas," he said, "but

SEE **PRAYER,** PAGE 2



Local residents gather in prayer Saturday at the flagpole on the Hickman County Courthouse lawn.

We want to hear from you!
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270.653.3381 gazette3322@bellsouth.net

Obituaries, pg 4

Laurie Jones
Grace Stuart
See full obituaries on page 4.

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KHESLC offers low interest rates on college loans

Louisville, Ky. (July 6, 2015) — Kentucky students and parents who need help paying for college may qualify for low interest rates on Kentucky Advantage Education Loans from the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC).

Interest rates are fixed and are as low as 4.95 percent. The exact rate will depend on creditworthiness and choice of payment plan.

The low-cost loans fill the gap between other financial aid a student receives and the total cost of education. Students should apply for all free aid, such as grants and scholarships, then for Federal Stafford Loans before applying for a private loan.

To qualify for an Advantage Loan, the student must:

-Be a Kentucky resident enrolled in an approved school or a non-Kentucky resident enrolled in an approved Kentucky school;

· Be 18 by the date of application;

· Be a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen with a proof of residency card; and

· Have an acceptable credit history or an approved cosigner.

To qualify for a parent Advantage Loan, the borrower must:

· Be the parent or stepparent of an undergraduate or graduate student, as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);

· Be a U.S. citizen or a non-citizen with a proof of residency card; and

· Have an acceptable credit history or an approved cosigner.

The loans are available to students attending eligible colleges and universities. Applications may be submitted online at www.kheslc.com or at www.advantageeducationloan.com. For more information, call 800-988-6333.

KHESLC is a public, nonprofit corporation that provides education loans for students and parents. It was established by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1978.

Clinton

From Pg. 1

compliant playground. He said that the application would be for about $300,000.

Since no quorum was present and the council could not vote on whether or not to apply for the grant, the item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Items on the agenda for the meeting that were not discussed included annexation, a wastewater budget ordinance, a trash pick-up ordinance, audit bids, car bids, and backhoe bids.

Change for the Community applications being accepted

The Change for The Community committee is currently accepting applications for funds that will be awarded in July.

If you know of a nonprofit organization in the counties that Hickman-Fulton Counties RECC serves, please have a representative of the organization contact Hickman-Fulton Counties RECC to request an application.

Applications will be accepted through June 30, 2015 and will be reviewed in July to see who the funds will be disbursed to.

The Change for the Community program receives its funds by HFRECC rounding up its members 'electric bills to the nearest dollars. The change is then added to the Change for the Community fund to support organizations in the counties that Hickman-Fulton Counties RECC serves. Past recipients of the funds were local senior citizens centers, rescue squads and organizations that provide food and clothing for people in need in our of our communities.



ALWAYS SERVING - Phillip McClure scoops ice-cream with a smile, even at his own reception.

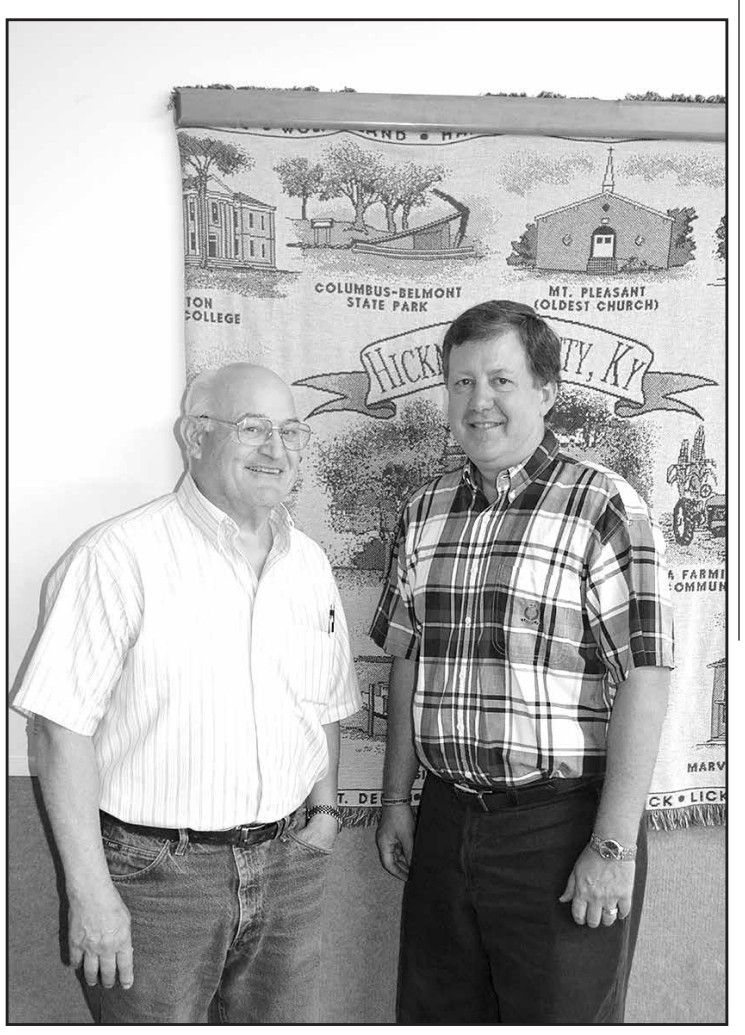
McClure retires from Senior Center Board after 10 years as chairman

After serving for 10 years as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Hickman County Senior Citizens Center, Phillip McClure has retired from the board. McClure is reportedly the longest serving chairman in the organization's history, and was honored with a small reception last Thursday.

While no longer on the board, McClure is still serving as temporary director for the center until a permanent director can be hired and trained. He also says that he will still volunteer for many of the center's activities.

Longtime boardmember and former Hickman County Judge/Executive Greg Pruitt will assume the position as chairman of the board. Pruitt has served as chairman twice before, but this time will only serve for one year.

The Hickman County Senior Citizens Center offers a variety of services and activities in the community for residents above the age of 60. Services offered include daily lunches (served at 11:30 a.m. and adhered to the nutrition guidelines set forth by the Kentucky Department of Aging and Independent Living), meals on wheels (Lunch is delivered to many Hickman County shut-ins. This program requires a check by a social worker of the home situation and ability of the individual(s) in the home), escort services, and activities and events.



Phillip McClure, left, has retired from his position as Chairman of the Hickman County Senior Citizen's Center after serving 10 years. Greg Pruitt, right, will serve as chairman of the board for one year.

Notice of Special Called Meeting

The Clinton City Council will meet in special session on Monday, July 13 in order to conduct business that was originally on the agenda for the Monday, July 6 meeting. Due to lack of quorum, the council did not hold a meeting.

Prayer

From Pg. 1

this is something most of us can come together on."

Keeling is also concerned about the fact that the Supreme Court's ruling forces county clerks to go against Kentucky's constitution, which they swear to uphold when they take office.

"Now, our county clerk has to decide if he's going to follow the oath he swore to uphold the constitution, or to follow this new ruling." Keeling referred to the 2004 amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, which added Section 233A to the constitution. The amendment, approved by 75 percent of Kentucky voters, reads, "*Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Kentucky. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized.*"

Keeling estimates that about 100 people turned out on the courthouse lawn Saturday, after only sending word of the event out on Thursday. Seven churches represented at the gathering included New Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson Chapel, Columbus Baptist Church, Beulah Baptist Church, First Assembly of God, New Harmony, and Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Keeling quotes 2 Chronicles 7:14 as his motivation to gather in prayer. The passage reads, "*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*"

"A lot of people are saying that it's over and we should just give up," he said, "but that's not what Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did." Keeling is calling on other area churches to gather at their respective courthouses to pray for the future of our nation and those affected by the Supreme Court ruling.

A second gathering in Clinton is scheduled for Saturday, July 18 at the courthouse at 3 p.m.

Flags

From Pg. 1

Confederate flags, but are putting a hold on new orders until the official policy is drafted.

The policy revision will likely only affect the more common Confederate Battle Flag, or "Stars and Bars," while not affecting the several variants of the Confederate National Flag.

Lawson said that there is no definite timeline on the revision of the department's policy, and was unable to give a generic estimate of when a final decision would be made.

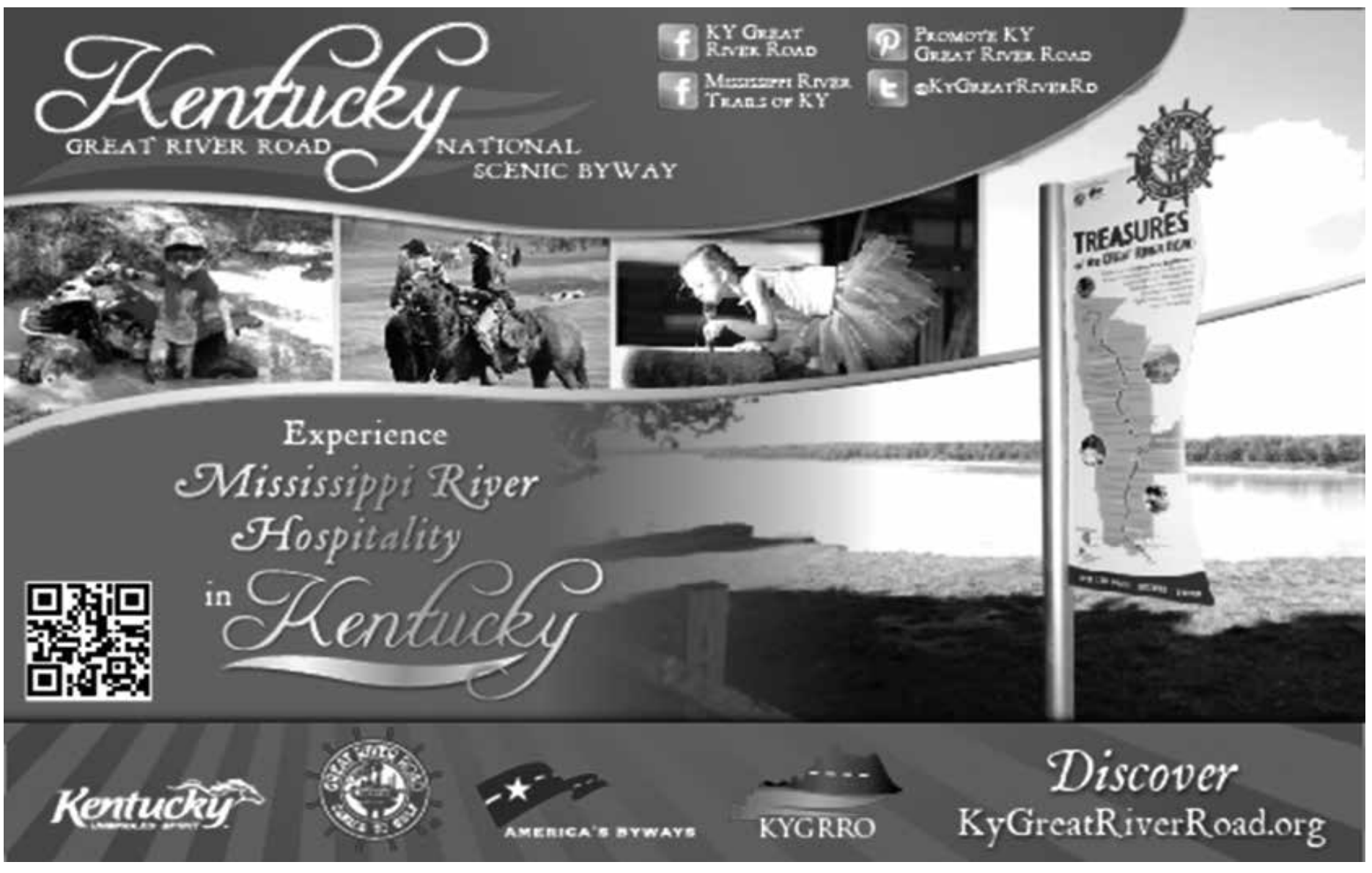
Columbus-Belmont State Park Manager Cindy Lynch said that there will be no changes to the museum, and that the 25th Anniversary Civil War Days event will go on as planned the second weekend in October.

Jackson Chapel Church will have an Ice Cream Supper Friday, July 10 starting at 5:30 p.m. Hamburgers, corn dogs, cake, pie and Homemade ice cream. Rain or shine. EVERYONE WELCOME

Jackson Chapel Church will have Vacation Bible School July 12 from 6 – 8:30 p.m. July 13-16 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. There will be a light meal each night. Friday night is family night With meal at 6 p.m.. Buses will run in Clinton and Columbus. Call 270-653-6526 If no answer leave message

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Editorial/News



Fighting for Kentucky Jobs

By Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
June 29, 2015

For years, the Obama administration and its overzealous bureaucratic regulators at the EPA have waged a war against Kentucky coal jobs, miners, and their families. And I've vowed to do all I can to stop them. I'm pleased to report that recently the Senate Appropriations Committee, on which I serve, took an important step towards using Congress's power of the purse to rein in the agency on several fronts, efforts that should help those not only in the coal industry but also farmers and Kentucky job creators.

Earlier this year, I joined the subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee responsible for funding the EPA. I joined this subcommittee specifically to be in a position to oversee the EPA's budget and to protect Kentucky jobs. As a member of this subcommittee, I was able to secure a number of policy provisions in this EPA funding bill that passed out of committee, provisions that seek to scale back the overreach of the EPA.

One of the most egregious of the EPA's assaults on Kentucky is the agency's attempt to impose a so-called "Clean Power Plan" that would have a dramatic impact on existing coal-fired power plants. For example, here in Kentucky, abiding by this regulation would mean closing power plants, cutting more jobs, and increasing the cost of electricity for families and job creators across the state.

This plan would shrink our state's economy by almost $2 billion and raise electricity rates by double digits. And it would reduce the affordable, plentiful energy we get from coal, which is critical to industries throughout Kentucky.

Because of the detrimental impact this regulation could have on Kentucky and other states, not to mention the question of whether this regulation is even within the EPA's legal authority, I wrote a letter to every governor in the country urging caution, for the sake of their constituents and their state's economies, before complying with the EPA's request for state implementation plans.

Well, the provisions I included in the bill that passed the Appropriations Committee would guarantee that governors who heeded my warning would be protected. If enacted, the measure I secured would restrict the EPA from using its funding to force states to submit an implementation plan. Kentucky's next governor, no matter who wins the election, could forego compliance with this regulation without fear of retaliation from the agency.

The Interior Appropriations bill contains provisions to halt other burdensome EPA regulations that would hurt Kentucky, too. For some time, I've spoken in opposition to an Obama administration regulation known as the "Waters of the U.S." rule that would classify nearly all wetlands in the state—potentially small ponds and ditches—as "navigable" waters, and thus subject them to interference by Washington bureaucrats. Such a regulation would wreak havoc on many industries across Kentucky, especially agriculture, and trample on Kentuckians' private property rights. The bill language I secured would prohibit funding for the EPA to implement this onerous regulation.

I also inserted language in the bill to prevent funding for a new ozone rule that would have a serious detrimental effect on jobs and electricity prices until certain thresholds are met. The language would prohibit the EPA from regulating a standard for ozone or "smog" levels until at least 85 percent of counties nationwide that are not currently complying are able to do so.

Furthermore, this bill, as written, would also prohibit the EPA from enforcing a mandatory greenhouse gas reporting system for manure management systems; it would prohibit the agency from promulgating any regulation to limit livestock emissions; and it expresses the committee's concerns with the Department of Interior rewriting the Stream Buffer Zone rule. I also worked with the subcommittee to reduce funding for the EPA's core regulatory function by 10 percent to slow the agency's work on harmful regulations like these.

This bill makes it clear to the EPA that Congress is prepared to try to rein in the agency's regulatory overreach, and passing the measure out of the Appropriations Committee was an important first step. However, much work still remains to be done before the provisions become law. The bill, as written, needs to pass the Senate, and President Obama must sign it.

Congress must do its best through the power of the purse to hold the line against the bureaucratic and regulatory menace the EPA has become, at least until America elects a new president who is more sympathetic to the needs of Kentucky's coal families, farmers and small-business owners. I can assure you, I will not stand idly by while this administration tries to wipe out the lifeblood of our state's economy.

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Consent of the Governed?

As a child, I memorized the American's Creed, written in 1917 by William Tyler Page, as did many others. I stumbled upon a copy I had used to memorize it while at my parents' house this weekend, and as I looked through it, I couldn't believe the contrast between the country described in the creed and the country in which we now live.

While originally unofficial in nature (Page submitted the creed as part of a nationwide patriotic contest), Page's concise, yet complete statement of the American political faith was later adopted by Congress on behalf of the American people and used in the Naturalization Ceremony when swearing in new citizens. The beginning of the creed says, "I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, and for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a Democracy in a Republic, a sovereign Nation, of many sovereign States…"

THE WAY I SEE IT



DANIEL RICHARDSON

Consent of the governed? Is our government behaving in a way that garners the consent of the governed? They are doing just the opposite, and the Supreme Court showed the world with its same-sex marriage ruling that our states are anything but sovereign.

In 2004, Kentucky voters amended their constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman, with 75 percent of voters voting in favor of the amendment. In 2006, Tennessee did virtually the same thing, but with 81 percent voting in favor of the amendment. By design, amending a constitution is a very hard thing to do, requiring a large majority approval in both chambers of legislature before it goes to a popular vote – the ultimate level of democracy. It is through these votes that we see how the majority of the *governed* really feel about issues, as opposed to elected officials voting in whatever way they feel will get them reelected.

If such a majority of the *governed,* in these two *sovereign states*, are against their government's recognition of same-sex marriage, how can a 5-4 vote in a panel of judges, none of which are from either of these states, override their constitutions? Now county clerks are placed in a serious dilemma. They all ran for office and when elected, swore an oath to uphold their state's constitution. Regardless of their views on same-sex marriage, now they must decide either to hold to the oath they made and defy the Supreme Court of the United States, or follow the ruling and violate the oath they made, hand on the Bible and all. The constitutions haven't changed. Will they be changed as a result of the ruling? Can a constitutional amendment be ruled unconstitutional? Not yet at least. The processes for changing anything in the constitutions still requires a vote of the people.

This will pose an interesting situation as time goes on – with sections of the states' constitutions that can't be enforced because of the federal court's ruling. What, then, is the purpose of having a state constitution at all? We may as well all drop our state constitutions and therefor our *sovereignty* altogether.

Since the abolishment of the Articles of Confederation in 1787, states have been losing their sovereignty little by little. From Social Security to federal socialized health care to same-sex marriage, history shows us that states' sovereignty has become just another delusion. Our federal government now more closely resembles what our forefathers fought and died to escape than what those men set in place so many years ago. Now bureaucrats in Frankfort are toying with the idea of discontinuing Confederate flag sales at Kentucky State Parks, including Columbus-Belmont State Park. They've halted restocking orders and once the current inventory is sold out, it's gone. Supposedly this is only while they "review the policy in regards to Confederate flag merchandise," even though we know that there is no policy to review. My thought is that no policy will be drafted, but the hold on reorders will just be eternal.

Well, here's the American's Creed in its entirety:

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

What's in a name?

A state Representative who admits he has never been inside Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park is leading efforts to change its name.

State Rep. Johnny Shaw of Bolivar is the ringleader. State Rep. Tim Wirgau of Paris admitted that he is not aware much of the history of the park but both he and Sen. John Stevens, both Republicans, seem to be against efforts to change the park's name.

MY VIEW



DENNIS RICHARDSON

And the Confederate flag flap?

We live in the south and this flag is our history. Most southerners will admit that some of what happened during the Civil War was very ugly – but so it goes in the history of all nations. We are told that history repeats itself. If so, then we should not edit out what happened during the U.S. Civil War.

Some northerners naturally want to erase symbols of the southern heritage. They won the war. As for the atrocities that occurred in Charleston recently, the heartless murders of so many at the church there did not occur because the Confederate flag flies, no more than the American flag represents the killings of thousands of Indians and should thus be banned.

Some consider portions of Southern society lower than others and look at those who might defend Southern culture as ignorant hillbillies. What's next?

Brave men and women fought for their homeland during the Civil War and they should not be edited out of history.

Union soldiers were part of those who camped in crypts at Revolutionary War cemeteries around Charleston and Savannah, Ga, and defaced markers of those who died in that war. That was wrong, but it was war.

Like all Americans, Southerners are very proud of their heritage and just because someone flies the "stars and bars" does not mean that they are racist, ugly, or rebellious. It just means they're doing their part to keep history alive … lest we forget.

Efforts to rename Nathan Bedford State Park and other parks and military installations that are named after Confederate War heroes may succeed. But if they do, I consider it a grave mistake.

What are your takes on these matters?

Community News

Area Obituaries

Laurie Jones

Laurie Jones, 86, of Martin, Tenn. died at 3:30 a.m. Saturday, June 27, 2015 at Martin Health Care and Rehabilitation Facility in Martin.

Laurie was a member of McCabe United Methodist Church in Martin where she was the book- keeper. She was a retiree of environmental services at The University of Tennessee in Martin, serving for over 38 years after retiring in 2003.

Surviving are **one sister**, Mattie Harris, of South Fulton, Tenn.; **one granddaughter** Isha Wade, Trenton, Tenn.; **Three great-grandchildren**, Marcus Reynolds, Jr., Markel Reynolds, and Kellen Jackson all of Trenton; and **a host of cousins and friends.**

She was preceded by her parents, Ras Jones and Gabrella Byars Jones; one daughter, Denise Street; four brothers, Bill Jones, Frank Jones, Leroy Jones, and Robert Jones; two sisters, Dorothy Jones and Mary Louise Jones; and one grandson, Renarado Jones.

Services were at 1 p. m., Thursday, July 2, at McCabe United Methodist Church in Martin. Rev. Orrin Cowley and Rev. Joe Beal officiated, with burial in Parham Cemetery in Martin.

Memorial made be made to the McCabe United Methodist Church, 215 Hyndsver Road, Martin, Tennessee 38237.

Pettus-Rowland Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Grace Stuart

Grace Lorraine Hicks Stuart, 87 of Clinton, Ky. died at 7:30 a.m. Monday, July 6, 2015, at Clinton Place.

She was a member of Clinton First United Methodist Church and a homemaker.

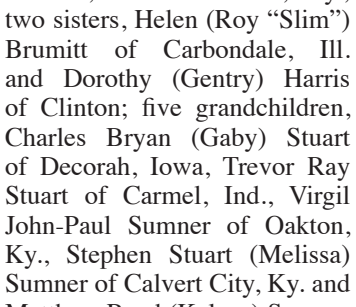
She is survived by a son, Gary (Carol) Stuart of West Lafayette, Ind.; a daughter, Cheryl (Ralph) Sumner, of Draffenville, Ky.; two sisters, Helen (Roy "Slim") Brumitt of Carbondale, Ill. and Dorothy (Gentry) Harris of Clinton; five grandchildren, Charles Bryan (Gaby) Stuart of Decorah, Iowa, Trevor Ray Stuart of Carmel, Ind., Virgil John-Paul Sumner of Oakton, Ky., Stephen Stuart (Melissa) Sumner of Calvert City, Ky. and Matthew Reed (Kelsey) Sumner of Benton, Ky.; and eight great grandchildren, Isabel Grace Stuart of Decorah, Brooklyn and Kaylee Sumner of Oakton, Jasper and Mason Sumner & Michael Conkright of Calvert City and Brantly and Kasey Ann Grace Sumner of Benton.

She was preceded in death by her husband, J.D. Stuart, JR, and one sister, Carol Ashbrook. Her parents were Wilburn and Velma Warner Hicks,

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, July 7 at Clinton Cemetery. Friends are asked to meet at the cemetery at the service time.

Donations: Veterans Family & Children's Fund, c/o Cheryl Sumner, 356 Frankfort Rd., Benton, KY 42025.

Brown Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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Second Baptist Church News

By Teresa Walton Pearson

John Hill gave the Sunday school devotion from Philippians 4: 4-9. John asked Do you get discouraged and think I'm just going to go along to get along. He said we are called to strive to be the best that we can be. vs 8 says "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

William Triplett sang "Heart of Worships" and Allen Cox sang "Watch the Lamb"

Bro. Dustin's message was from Daniel 2: 14 - 28 "Praise" Daniel prayed for wisdom, Bro. Dustin said we need to pray more. vs 27 - 28 says, "Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;" Bro. Dustin said, "when all hope is lost, there is a God in Heaven; when the valley is too deep, there is a God in Heaven; when you are depressed, there is a God in Heaven; when the doctor has a long talk with you, there is a God in Heaven; when the car won't start, there is a God in Heaven and whatever your problem, there is a God in Heaven. Bro. Dustin has been preaching on praise and how we all need to praise God more. He said, "If you are praising God, you won't have as much time to sin."

On Sunday night Allen Cox sang "God May See a King" William Triplett sang "King of My Heart" then we had a testimony service and Bro. Dustin read from 1 Thessalonians 5: 11 - 23 verse 16 says "Rejoice evermore" and verse 19 says, "Quench not the Spirit" we also had Baptism services and we closed with William Triplett singing "God Bless the USA"

Please pray for: Teen Garrison, Larry Cagle, Jim Schooley, Megan Grubbs, MIllie Grubbs, Lisa Adams, Hal Cannon, Thomas Dublin, Bro. Rocky James & Beverly, Dorothy Hoskins, Joseph Atkinson, Billy Lamb, Debbie Kilpatrick, Steven Turner II, Steve Plummer, Joy Workman, James Grey, Helen Holmes, Vanessa Harpole, Josh Harpole, Josephine Shadwick, Mildred Morrison Eloise Harrison, Edna Roper, MIke & Sherry Jones, Paul & Jackie Ballard, Ruth Jewell, Cheyenne Lomax, Jim Connell, Shirley Byassee, Dale Melton, Bud and Janie Martin.

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At Second Baptist we believe that "everybody is somebody and Jesus is everything."

Visitors are always welcome at Second Baptist Church. Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. Worship service is at 11a.m. Sunday night worship service is at 6 p.m. Wednesday night 7 p.m. Pastor Bro. Dustin Cunningham.

Family group announces legal defense fund

FRANKFORT, KY— Kent Ostrander, executive director of The Family Foundation, expressed deep concern about the possible loss of religious liberty for Kentucky state workers and other citizens in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling on marriage. Today he asked Gov. Beshear to act to protect religious liberty for state and county employees and announced the establishment of a legal defense fund.

"I call upon the Governor to act to protect those who work for him in state and county governments," said Ostrander. "I ask that he consider an Executive Order, which other governors have done. Or, I ask that he consider calling a Special Session of the General Assembly to get clear direction from the people's branch of government. Or, I ask that he act in some other responsible way to preserve that American distinctive called Religious Liberty – the First Amendment.

Ostrander also announced the establishment of a legal defense fund. "I would like to announce the establishment of the Kentucky Religious Liberty Defense Fund that will be used for the legal defense of those who are targeted to have their religious liberty curtailed and for legislative measures that will ensure religious liberty for all. This includes government workers, such as county clerks, who are under fire now, and others, such as pastors, when their First Amendments rights are legally contested."

Ostrander also made the following statements:

"America has a new law about marriage because the U.S. Supreme Court has spoken. I disagree with their decision; I do not believe it is a sound ruling based on historical or legal precedent, but it is now the law of the land.

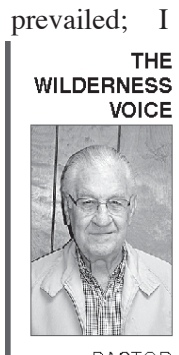
"What I am addressing today is the question of whether the religious liberty of Kentucky citizens and, in particular, Kentucky government employees, will be denied by wrongful interpretations of the marriage ruling. Clearly, the word "marriage" is not in the Constitution and "marriage" is not a right enumerated in the Constitution, but Religious Liberty is guaranteed by the First Amendment. In fact, it is the first part of the First Amendment. No part of true religious liberty must be lost in the overall discussion about marriage following the ruling.

"It is my understanding that a lawsuit has already been filed against the county clerk of Rowan County, Kim Davis, requiring that she abandon her sincerely-held religious beliefs and participate in a same-sex marriage by authorizing the marriage license. This is as unfortunate as it is un-American. Even in times of war, where the very existence of the Unites States is in question, America has never required the conscientious objector to pull a trigger. In this marriage matter, there is no reason for the force of government to come against citizens and workers with deeply-held religious convictions.

"Therefore, first, as the Executive Director of The Family Foundation, I call upon the Governor to act to protect those who work for him in state and county governments. I ask that he consider an Executive Order,

See **Family,** page 7

Supreme or Sick Court?



They are calling it a historic event; I call it a heinous decision. They say justice prevailed; I say judicial anarchy reared its reptilian head. They say it was a victory for love; I say it was the voice of lust trying to pass for love.

I am talking about the Supreme Court decision for gay marriage in all states. They say that same sex "Marriage", so called, is now equal to traditional marriage, biblical marriage. It is my opinion, based on common sense and God's word, that the court is a sick court along with about half of this land of ours. When has open, blatant sin, become equal with righteous living?

The prophet Isaiah, just before Judah was carried into captivity, described the nation, and it appears he was describing this land of ours also. May God have mercy. Listen; "A sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters; they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they have gone away backward…the whole head is sick, and the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores, they have not been closed, neither bound up" (Isaiah 1:4-6).

God went on to say through Isaiah, "Put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil" (verse 16). Does America care what God says? Do our leaders care? Their actions say, "NO." But one day such ones will stand before THE SURPREME JUDGE. They have their fun and celebration now, but fun will turn to fear in that horrible hour of judgment.

Senior Chatter

By Vida

Last week an opportunity was given to YOU to reach out to others in your community. We have had responses to that appeal BUT there is still a slot open just for you. The telephone lines are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday to call and let us know what you will do. So again I am asking you to think about what you can offer to enrich the life of others. (These programs are open to ALL seniors in Hickman County!!)

I know that most of you are aware that changes are taking place at the Center. After the unexpected resignation of the Director of the Center several months ago, Rhonda stepped up to the plate – acting as Program Director (even though we had no designated funds for the position) AND Director of the Center. She did an outstanding job; however, she recently resigned due to medical problems. So – the Center is without a Director plus the work she was doing with programming. At the current time Phillip McClure is acting as interim Director while interviews are being conducted for the position of Director. Greg Pruitt was recently elected to serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors and Marge Kelly as ViceChairperson. The Center continues to offer full services to our community.

MEALS: Meals are being offered at the Center at 11:00 a.m. Monday-Friday. A donation of $2-5 would be appreciated. If you plan to eat at the center, please call 270-653-4313 by 9:00 a.m. We want to have enough food yet not throw any away.

(Unless otherwise noted Whole Wheat Bread, Margarine and Skim Milk are served at all meals)

Mon, July 6: Center closed in observance of Independence Day

Tue, July 7: Hamburger Steak in Gravy, Roasted Red Potatoes, Buttered Okra, Peach Slices.

Wed, July 8: BBQ Pork, Bun, Creamy Cucumbers, ½ Sweet Potato, Black Eyed Peas, Pineapple Slices w/ marshmallows

Thur. July 9: Oven Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Cabbage, Fruit Cobbler

Fri. July 10: Potato Crusted Pollock, American Fried Potatoes, Creamy Slaw, Orange Jello Cake

Mon. July 13: **Retired Senior Volunteer Program CATERED MEAL BY RUBY FAYE'S

Tues. July 14: Chicken & Noodles, Italian Green Beans w/ Almonds, Pineapple Mousse

(Don't Forget to Make Your Reservation by 9:00 a.m!!!)

ACTIVITIES:

Mon – Fri, : 11 a.m. Walking w/video; other exercise equipment available;

9 am– 4 pm computer lab open for those 60+. CLOSED JULY 6

Tue. July 7: 12 noon Book Mobile w/Laura Snyder

Wed. July 8: 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Check; Canasta

Thu. July 9: 10 a.m. Bingo w/Anita

Fri. July 10: 10 a.m. Visit to Holy Land w/Vida

Mon. July 13: 10 a.m. Rewards and Recognition for Volunteers

Tue July 14: 10 a.m. Blood Pressure Reading w/Shannon

Wed July 15: 10 a.m. Devotion w/Rev. Eugene McDonald

Tidbits of information:

** The Catered Lunch on Monday, July 13 is especially for Senior Volunteers working – a part of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. Volunteers, bring your hourly work sheet with you or be prepared to report your hours.

Orders are being taken for the Rada Cutlery.

Thursday, July 23 Potato Day – bring your friends with you! Don't you be missing!

NEEDED: Program Leaders, Devotion Leaders, Transport Drivers, Reassurance Callers, Front Desk Receptionists. You have what we need – please volunteer by calling the Center – you don't have to be perfect – you just need a loving, willing spirit. Is that you? Can that be you?

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$32 - all others & out of state

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Fulton and Hickman Counties Church Page

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For Your Information



Social Security Matters

by AMAC's Certified Social Security Advisor C.J. Miles
Association of Mature American Citizens

QUESTION: I qualified for Social Security starting at age 16, working in grocery stores for a total of 22 "substantial" years and 8 "unsubstantial" years (as defined by the government). After 30 years of paying Social Security taxes and getting 30 years' worth of "credits," I pursued a career in education. Now that I am retiring, Social Security is telling me I'm getting a 40% cut in benefits. There are many occupations related and intertwined with government paid income that have retirement programs along with Social Security and Medicare. Why is it that teachers were targeted for this 40% deduction? Teachers' pay overall is not that high. I really don't think this is fair that the teaching profession is targeted.

ANSWER: The cut in benefits you are talking about is called the "Windfall Elimination Provision" (WEP). It does not just affect teachers, but anyone in a government profession that (1) provides a pension and (2) did not deduct Social Security taxes from its employees. Teachers are an extremely common example of people who are affected by WEP because they are seasonal employees. This means that they typically have other work in their lifetime, such as part-time work and summer jobs. These jobs would have Social Security tax deductions resulting in eligibility for Social Security at retirement age. But that is where things get tricky and you can get a cut in your benefit, such as you described.

First, not everyone will get a flat 40% cut in benefits. The actual cut is based on your number of substantial years. In order to get a full Social Security benefit (yes, that is possible), you will need 30 or more substantial years. It sounds like you are already aware that substantial earnings and the amount needed for a "credit" are not the same things. One of the reasons for this is that a year of substantial earnings is based on one full year, while you can receive 4 credits per year. To help differentiate between the two, everyone should understand that the amount of earnings needed to get a "credit" is much lower than the amount of earnings needed to qualify for substantial earnings. For instance, you need 10 credits to qualify for any Social Security benefit and you can earn 4 per year. In 2015 one credit is equal to $1,220, meaning you need to earn $4,880 to earn the full 4 credits for the year. On the other hand, in 2015 you need to earn $22,050 in "covered employment" in order for that year to count as substantial earnings. Covered employment is working for an employer (or self-employment) in which Social Security taxes are paid. Teachers do not generally pay Social Security taxes because of their pensions, but may be earning credits elsewhere, such as you did at the grocery store.

This is where your prior earnings are looked at to determine how many years of substantial earnings you have under covered employment. Assuming you have 10 credits (what is needed to get ANY Social Security benefit), the number of years of substantial earnings will determine (1) if you will receive a reduction in your benefit and (2) how much that reduction will be if you have one. Each year the amount you need to earn to qualify as substantial earnings changes (it was $900 in 1937, $5,100 in 1980, $9,525 in 1990, etc.). Note that 30 or more years results in no cut in benefits.

So regardless of how many substantial years you paid into the system, the biggest question you and others have is WHY? Why are you getting a cut in benefits at all? Social Security benefits are not a cut and dry calculation. Without getting into too much detail at this point, I will say that it is tiered so that people receive a higher percentage of the first part of average earnings and a lower percentage of the next part, and so forth. This is because benefit calculations were determined so that low lifetime earnings receive a larger percentage of their average earnings and higher lifetime earners receive a lower percentage of their average earnings.

What does this have to do with you and other teachers? Since the majority of your career was in teaching, a job that did not deduct Social Security taxes, your Social Security benefit would be calculated as if you were a low-wage earner under the normal calculation. Therefore, WEP was created to offset this imbalance. Think of it this way – if your benefit was NOT cut, you would receive a substantial amount more than others who paid the exact amount that you did. While I am not in any way providing my opinion, I want to make it clear to teachers and other government employees why this law was created. You still may not find it fair, and that's okay. This is just why it is.

To ask a question about Social Security contact AMAC's C.J. Miles at cmiles@amac.us.

The information contained in this article is for general information purposes only. Every individual's situation is unique and you should make your benefit choices according to your personal needs. Furthermore, AMAC and its affiliates do not provide legal or accounting services. Please contact a licensed professional for such advice.

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Area Announcements

The Mission House distributes CSFP (Cheese) Commodities monthly to Hickman County residents who are 60 years or over, meet the income guidelines, and are pre-registered. Pick up dates are Thursday & Friday after the third Tuesday of each month.

Every Monday:

• AA meets at 8 p.m. at First United Methodist Church in Clinton.

Second Monday:

• Library Board meets the second Monday at the library at 4.

• **The Hickman Co. Arts Council** will meets the fourth Monday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Young Center. The public is invited to attend. www.hickmancoarts.com.

Every Wednesday:

• 7 a.m.- Community Prayer Service at First United Methodist Church.

• **The Hickman Co. Museum** is open every Wednesday from 1 - 4 p.m..

• **Hickman Co. Memorial Library** Open Tuesday through Friday from 2-5 p.m. and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

• **Clinton City Council** meets first Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at Clinton City Hall and **Columbus City Council** meets at 6 p.m., the first Monday of the month at Columbus City Hall.

• **The Mission House** is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and first Saturday of the month.

• **The Hickman Co. Historical and Genealogical Society Center** is open Wednesday & Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. For appointment, call LaDonna Latham at 653-4190 or Norma Gene Humphreys at 653-6208

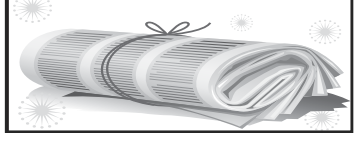
• **Hickman County Fiscal Court** will meet July 16 in the County Judge Executive office at 6 p.m..

• **Wesley United Methodist Church** will have their montly breakfast the last Saturday of each month 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.

Obion Creek Watershed meeting

The Obion Creek Watershed Conservancy District, Board of Directors, will meet Tuesday Morning July 14, 2015 at 7:30 A.M., in the USDA Service Center, Conference Room, Clinton, Ky.

Subscribe Today!
270.653.3381



Senior Citizens Center Director

The Hickman County Senior Citizen Board of Directors is accepting applications/resumes for the position of Center Director. Applicants should possess a love for working with senior adults and the Hickman County community. Experience in budgeting, grant writing and personnel administration is desired. Applications may be picked up at and should be returned to the Hickman County Senior Citizens Center located at 212 East North St., Clinton, Ky. no later than the close of business on Friday, July 17, 2015.



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HELP WANTED

The Hickman County Board of Education is now accepting applications for a full-time preschool assistant for the 2015-2016 school year. Benefits include participation in state health insurance program and retirement system, a $20,000 life insurance policy provided by state and sick/personal leave days. All applicants must have a high school diploma or GED. Applications are available at the Board of Education office, 416 Waterfield Drive North, Clinton, KY or by calling 270-653-2341. Applications will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on July 17, 2015.

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CLINTON HILLS APARTMENTS now has available 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units. Rent based on income. Mon. & Thurs. 9 p.m. -12 noon. Call (270) 653-6218 TDD#711.
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Call 270-207-8502

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YARD SALE - Behind Jewell N. on Jefferson Street
Saturday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
2 coffee tables, 1 end table, shoes, purses, clothes, dishes, linens. Little bit of everything

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Sell It With The CLASSIFIEDS



Your low cost classified ad in The Hickman County Gazette, The Hickman Courier, The Carlisle Weekly, or The Fulton Leader will help you turn unwanted items into cash. Only $6 for 20 words - 10¢ each additional word for one paper or $8.50 for 20 words - 20¢ each additional word for 2 papers!

Find A Job • Sell A Car • Rent A House

I Want My Ad To Read:

				$5.00/$8.50
$5.10/$8.70	$5.20/$8.90	$5.30/$9.10	$5.40/$9.30	$5.50/$9.50
$5.60/$9.70	$5.70/$9.90	$5.80/$10.10	$5.90/$10.30	$6.00/$10.50

Please be sure to include your name and phone number as well as a check or credit card information for payment.

Remit to: The Hickman County Gazette, P.O. Box 200• Clinton, KY 42031

Local News/Advice

Unauthorized Subletting

Dear Dave,

I own a rental property that brings in enough to pay the taxes and insurance with a little left over. Recently, I found out that my tenant, who just signed a new two-year lease, is subleasing the property for the short term as a vacation site. This kind of thing happened once before and is prohibited in the agreement. Do you think I should approach him about the situation or let it go until it becomes problematic?

Catherine

DAVE SAYS



DAVE RAMSEY

Dear Catherine,

It's already a problem, because he's in violation of the lease agreement. Call him today and tell him to stop the sublease immediately. Let him know that he'll be evicted if anything like this ever happens again.

This may sound harsh, but an agreement is an agreement. You may not have experienced any big problems up until now, but what happens when he pulls this again and the next people who come in are a bunch of partiers? You could end up with broken windows, holes in the walls and a bad reputation. On top of all that, what if they leave and he doesn't have the money to fix things? It's all on you. Why? Because you lost control of your property!

As a landlord, I always try to be gentle and nice but really clear about things. But this guy needs to understand that you mean what you say in the lease agreement. Once more, and he's gone!

—Dave

Healing comes first

Dear Dave,

I have a relative who recently entered a rehab center to treat her drug addiction. I've been trying to help with things on the outside, and recently I discovered she has about $20,000 in debt. This is in addition to the rent owed on her apartment. I don't have a lot of money, but do you think I should start trying to pay some of these bills for her?

Jeremy

Dear Jeremy,

I'm really sorry to hear about your relative. Addiction is painful thing for the addict and for their family and friends. While what you're suggesting is noble, my advice would be to leave the debt alone. I would, however, notify her landlord of what's happened. If he won't hold her place, then get her stuff out and turn over the keys so he or she can find another tenant.

As far as the debt obligations are concerned, just let her creditors cry and whine. They're going to do that anyway, and you're in no position to help financially at this point. Once she's out and healthy again, one of the first things she'll have to do is recreate her life and income. When that's been done, then she needs to go back and make arrangements with her creditors.

But right now, she needs to concentrate on herself. And as her family, you need to pour as much love and support as you can into the healing process. You've got a great heart, Jeremy, but the money stuff can wait until she's out, healthy and established again. Then, if you want and have been able to save a bit, you might gift her a little money to help her get started again.

God bless you guys.

—Dave

** Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 8.5 million listeners each week on more than 550 radio stations. Dave's latest project, EveryDollar, provides a free online budget tool. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.*

Family From Pg. 4

which other governors have done. Or, I ask that he consider calling a Special Session of the General Assembly to get clear direction from the people's branch of government. Or, I ask that he act in some other responsible way to preserve that American distinctive called Religious Liberty – the First Amendment.

"Make no mistake, this is not a protest against the Supreme Court's decision. It is not a clever effort to circumvent the Court's ruling. And it certainly is not an attempt to protect discrimination against same-sex couples. It is, however, a sincere effort to uphold what has always made America different from all other nations – the fact that our rights come from God and those rights cannot be abridged by any force, nor by any power nor by any manipulation on earth."

Citizens can donate to the "Kentucky Religious Liberty Defense Fund" by

Writing a check to "The Family Foundation" with "religious liberty" in the memo.

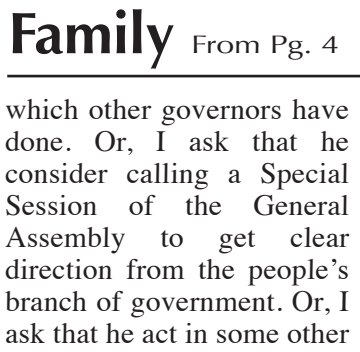
(Mail to "The Family Foundation" P.O. Box 911111 Lexington, KY 40591)

Going to www.kentuckyfamily.org and donating via the "Donate" button.

Using a cell phone download the Givr app for iPhone or Android and search for "The Family Foundation."

100% of the monies received will be used for the defense of religious liberty in Kentucky

Subscribe Today!
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MUSIC IN THE PARK - Saturday was a beautiful day for Music in the Park enjoying "The Jammerz" on July 4, at Columbus-Belmont State Park. Band members Charles and Denise Berryhill, Henry Brazzell, and Robert Armbruster were greeted enthusiastically by park visitors with some of them singing along to a medley of songs. One lucky spectator received a free copy of their CD as it was tossed into the crowd. For more information contact Park Manager Cindy Lynch for future performance dates.

Local sponsor growing trail awareness



Indian Camp Campground sponsored an ATV poker run in the Carlisle County River Trails on May 23.

"More than 250 people with their jeeps, ATVs, UTVs, or trucks received a poker hand and participated on a perfect day riding the trails in the river bottoms along the Mississippi r," said Gene Bolin. " I wish other counties could see how much fun people had today in the river bottoms. There were people from all over western Kentucky and three other states.

"If you build it, they will come," says Freida Bolin. The Bolin's expressed congratulations to Zack Morris for the winning hand, Brandi Jett-2nd place, Cathy Kanffield-3rd place. Gene and Freida Bolin owners of Indian Camp Campground are planning to sponsor future ATV rides.

Indian Camp Campground is located at 849 CR 1217, Arlington, KY. Call for camping rates at (270) 207-0024 or visit www.KyGreatRiverRoad.org/IndianCampCampground

Building a Back-to-School Budget

By Nathaniel Sillin

Back-to-school spending isn't just about clothes and markers anymore.

In 2014, Forbes reported that Accenture estimated (http://newsroom.accenture.com/images/20020/Graphic.pdf) that nearly half of respondents reported they would spend $500 or more on back-to-school expenses, including not only clothes and desk supplies, but electronics as well.

Yet there's one more aspect of back-to-school spending that's growing and can add hundreds – and sometimes thousands – to a family's overall K-12 education budget. Since the 2008 economic crisis, many public school systems have tried to make up for funding shortfalls by adding first-time or expanded fees for sports, extracurricular activities and specialized academics.

This means that back-to-school budgeting, even for families with kids in public school, now requires a more holistic, year-round approach to all back-to-school expenses.

Given their potential dollar amounts, parents should examine school fees first. Public education has never been completely free of charge beyond local taxes – parents have traditionally paid extra money to support their kids' participation in sports, music or other extracurricular activities. However, many school systems are adding fees for a broader range of offerings including after-school activities, top-level courses, lab-based instruction and even Advanced Placement (AP) classes. So before you start spending money on clothes and supplies that can be bought off-season, on sale or possibly used, get a handle on how applicable instruction and activity fees might affect your budget. (http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/budgeting/). Parents in financial need may qualify for public aid or grants to cover such fees; if not, choices will need to be made.

Consider turning back-to-school shopping into a money lesson. Most kids like to have certain kinds of clothes, shoes or supplies. Those "wants" can be turned into a discussion about spending priorities, value, choice and comparison shopping. Using the Back to School Budget (http://practicalmoneyskills.com/calculators/calculate/backToSchoolBudget.php?calcCategory=family) calculator with your kids can help them learn how create a budget before shopping for essentials. As kids get older, the discussion can expand to cover bigger-ticket purchases like smartphones, computers and fees for special courses and activities they want to pursue. Some of these issues might evolve into a discussion about earning money through chores or a part-time job.

Once priorities are decided, every expense should be tracked, including a child's round trip school transportation, meals, tutoring fees or immunization and healthcare expenses not covered by insurance. And once that budget is set, it means a constant search for smart ways to cut. Some ideas may include:

- Car pooling (track your costs to make sure you're not adding significantly to your overall transportation budget)
- Packing lunches at home
- Working with school administrators to raise outside donations or grant funding to cover parents' out-of-pocket costs
- Organizing school supplies in one place to avoid purchasing duplicates
- Renting equipment, supplies or instruments used until a child's interests are established
- Scouting garage sales, thrift shops and online marketplaces for used, required-edition textbooks, instruments, electronics, sports equipment, clothes and other supplies you'd otherwise buy new; online resources shouldn't charge shipping or return fees
- Reviewing school and classroom supply lists before buying essentials
- Bulk- and group-buying supplies and services with other parents to get volume prices
- Consolidating back-to-school shopping during tax-free days (if your state offers them)
- Swapping used supplies and equipment with other parents
- Checking retail memberships for any back-to-school savings they offer
- Watching for print and online coupons or special discount offers through your school
- Listening to your kids – they might spot money-saving ideas faster than you can

One final secret budget item – rewards. Saving money on back-to-school expenses can help parents meet a number of financial goals, but kids' academic or activity success deserves recognition. Consider setting aside a little of those savings for a reward they can enjoy.

Bottom line: When setting your back-to-school budget this year, think beyond the supplies. Consider every possible fee and expense associated with your child's school year and plan accordingly.

- *Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.*

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Local News



RELAY FOR LIFE COMMITTEE GAINS FROM TRAIL RIDE

Relay for Life Committee sponsored a Poker Run for ATV's, Jeeps, and 4x4's in the Carlisle County River Trails on June 20, 2015. More than $1,500 was raised by 150 people that participated playing their poker hands for a chance to win three grand prizes. Tina Massey won 1st Place with four tickets to Holiday World, Cody Yates won 2nd Place with a 1-year atv pass on the Carlisle County River Trails, and $25 was awarded to 3rd place winner Heather Little. The Committee expects to make the Poker Run an annual event in the Carlisle County River Trails, aka the Mississippi River Trails of Kentucky.

For more information about ATV trails visit www.KyGreatRiverRoad.org/ATVtrails.

Winners of the Poker Run were: 1st place - Four tickets to Holiday World, Tina Massey; 2nd place - Cody Yates, One year pass for Carlisle County trail system; 3rd place - Heather Little, $25.00.





Hickman County Attorney Jason Batts discusses issues with police officers during last Thurday's Law Enforcement Luncheon.

Batts holds second Law Enforcement Luncheon

Hickman County Attorney Jason Batts held his second Law Enforcement Luncheon on Thursday, July 2, at the Hickman County Cooperative Extension Office.

"With new laws going into place mid-year, we wanted to meet with law enforcement as soon as possible in order to ensure we are all up to date and on the same page going forward," Batts said.

During the luncheon, participants reviewed certain laws that have come up in different jurisdictions in the area. The included Kentucky's seat-belt laws, and giving false information to a police officer.

Batts also conducted eWarrant training with the officers. This is the online program used to create a complaint for requesting a warrant.

"With everyone up to speed on how to use the system, warrants should get to the judge even faster," he said.

Falcon baseball camp is July 15-17

Head Coach Shayne Midyett and the Hickman County Falcons will host their annual baseball camp July 15, 16, and 17 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The cost to attend is $20 per camper.

KPSC approves settlement reached in LG&E and KU rate cases

(LOUISVILLE, Ky.) — Stating that the unanimous settlement agreement reached by the parties to the LG&E and KU rates cases was "fair, just and reasonable," the Kentucky Public Service Commission today announced its approval to increase base rates for KU electric and LG&E natural gas customers.

While the monthly basic service charge will remain unchanged, the per-kilowatt charge will be modified to provide additional annual cost-recovery revenues of $125 million for KU, incorporating costs associated with the new 640-megawatt natural gas combined-cycle generating plant at the companies' Cane Run site, among other investments. KU owns 78 percent of that facility, with LG&E owning the remaining 22 percent.

"We are pleased to receive the commission's approval of this case," said Ed Staton, vice president of State Regulation and Rates. "Each of the parties was willing to compromise to develop a unanimous settlement that was fair, just and reasonable and the commission acknowledged the importance of that agreement."

The settlement agreement provides no increase in revenues for LG&E's electric operations and a $7 million increase in LG&E's gas operations.

A residential LG&E electric customer, using an average of 984 kWh per month, will see a 10 cent decrease in their overall monthly bill. A residential LG&E natural gas customer, using an average of 57 Ccf per month, will see an increase of $1.23 per month. A KU residential customer, using an average of 1,200 kWh per month, will see an increase of $8.98 per month.

The settlement does not attach specific dollars or concessions to any particular issue in the case, but provides an overall settlement that, on balance, is a fair, just and reasonable result. No return on equity was established with respect to base rates; however, the average customer's monthly bill will reflect an authorized 10 percent return on equity investment related to the environmental cost recovery mechanism and the gas line tracker mechanism. The settlement agreement also provides for deferred cost recovery of a portion of the costs associated with pensions and KU's Green River plant which is currently scheduled to be retired in April 2016.

In addition to LG&E and KU, parties to the unanimous settlement agreement included: the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; the Kentucky Industrial Utilities Customers; the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government; the Kroger Company; the Community Action Council of Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison, and Nicholas Counties; Kentucky Cable Telecommunications Association; Kentucky School Boards Association; Sierra Club; Wal-Mart Stores East, LP and Sam's East; Association of Community Ministries; and Metropolitan Housing Coalition.

LG&E and KU also agreed to a minimum annual contribution of shareholder funds of $1.15 million to low-income programs. The current Home Energy Assistance program also will become a permanent program under the companies' tariffs and maintain its current rate of 25 cents per meter.

The agreement also provides for an extension of the collection period for residential customer deposits from four to six months. Additionally, LG&E and KU have agreed to develop an energy efficiency filing for Kentucky's school districts and reaffirmed their commitment to study the feasibility of energy efficiency programs for industrial customers.

Customers will notice the adjustments on their bills beginning July 1.

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